

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 11, 21, and 31 were amended. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Interview Summary

Theodore D. Fay III and the examiner discussed the preceding claim amendments. An agreement was reached that the preceding claim amendments would overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 11, 21, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended the claims accordingly. Therefore the rejection of claims 1, 11, 21, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph has been overcome.

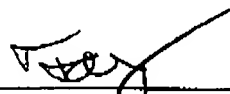
III. Conclusion

Reconsideration of the claims is requested. Applicants urge that the application is now in condition for allowance.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: December 15, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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